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HOMOSEXUAL POLITICIAN NAMED AS DOUBLE AGENT

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LONDON (AP) - The journalist who accused the 1974 Labor government of covering up unresolved spy charges against Britain's former counter-intelligence chief reported today that a prominent homosexual Laborite was a double agent.

The new target of Chapman Pincher, veteran defense correspondent of the Daily Mail, was the late Tom Driberg, an admitted homosexual and onetime gossip columnist who was chairman of the Labor Party in 1957-58, a member of its national executive for 23 years and a member of the House of Commons from 1942 to 1974.

Driberg, who died in 1976 at the age of 71, "reported on the personal and political activities of his friends and colleagues in Parliament" to both MI-5, the British counter-espionage agency, and the Soviet KGB. Pincher wrote in the third installment of a series taken from a book he is publishing later this week.

"Both MI-5 and the KGB had no illusions about the fact that he was working for the other side," Pincher wrote. "Both sought to use him for their own purposes."

Pincher said although Driberg did not have access to state secrets, he loaned his apartment to other members of Parliament including cabinet ministers "for their sexual liaisons" and passed on information he gathered.

MI-5 stored the information "as part of their file on MPs they were worried about," while the KGB filed it as potential blackmail material, said Pincher.

Driberg was paid for his information, the report continued, and his connection with MI-5 also saved him regularly from prosecution on charges of homosexual activity before it was legalized between consenting adults in 1969.

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